

SENATE—Thursday, February 25, 1999

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Father Peter Chrisafideis, St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Bangor, ME.

It is a pleasure to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rev. Father Peter Chrisafideis, St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Bangor, ME, offered the following prayer:

O Almighty God of the universe and of all space, we pray that You be with us this day, as we gather in Your name. How dependent we are upon You for our very being and mere existence. Man's temporal systems and civil parties have appeared and vanished, but Your eminent wisdom was and is forever.

Truly nothing has sustained our planet and world more than our sternest belief in Your omnipotent protection, love, and compassion. Continue, O Lord, to sustain and direct our great Nation in Your way, for we are a truly great and genuinely God-fearing people.

We pray for our President, for Gov. Angus King of the State of Maine, our Maine representatives, Senators OLYMPIA J. SNOWE and SUSAN COLLINS, our Maine Representatives JOHN BALDACCIO and TOM ALLEN, and all the Members of the U.S. Congress. Grant them health first and then the strength to continue programs, initiatives, and directives in the interest and well-being of others, notwithstanding their age, color, creed, and religious espousal.

Assist those in great need, who suffer bodily from malnutrition and live in unhealthy and inhuman surroundings. Preserve, O Lord, the cornerstone of democracy and freedom that flourishes in our Nation so that we may continue and remain the land of the free and the home of the brave, the torch and example of all peoples of the world.

Let all people from the rising and dawning of the Sun cry aloud praise to Your holy and sublime name. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

WELCOMING FATHER PETER CHRISAFIDEIS TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I would like to welcome Father Peter Chrisafideis to the United States Senate this morning, and to thank Dr. Ogilvie for graciously extending his hospitality to him.

Allowing guest chaplains to open the United States Senate with prayer helps

to highlight the important role that clergy of different faiths play throughout the United States—from the largest cities to the smallest towns. It is a statement that we are a nation of men and women for whom spiritual guidance and fulfillment is a vital part of daily life. Our country's spiritual leaders play an indispensable role in helping us to forge a sense of community, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their service.

For me personally, growing up, the Greek Orthodox religion was a constant and important presence in my life. My father was a Greek immigrant; my mother, the daughter of immigrants. So, ever since my early childhood, Greek Orthodox religious traditions have been at the center of my upbringing, and have helped shape my beliefs and my life.

Father Peter, as he is referred to by his congregation, has been a part of that tradition for me, serving formerly at Holy Trinity Church in Lewiston, Maine, where I am a member of the congregation. In fact, while it's hard for me to believe it could have been that long ago, Father Peter officiated at my own wedding almost exactly ten years ago. And he must have done a great job, because we are still going strong and looking forward to the next ten years!

Today, Father Peter leads the congregation of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church, where he serves the spiritual needs of Greek-Americans in the greater Bangor community. In addition, he has served a number of parishes outside the State of Maine throughout the years, helping members of the Church to nourish their beliefs and come to know their faith.

I again want to thank Father Peter for his service to the Church, as well as his personal friendship and support. And I want to extend my appreciation once more not only to Dr. Ogilvie, but to all of the nation's spiritual leaders for the tremendous inspiration and wise guidance they provide in helping people to live happier, better, and more fulfilling lives.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will begin consideration of Senate Resolution 45, regarding human rights violations in China. There will be 1 hour for debate on the resolution equally divided between myself and Senator WELLSTONE. No amendments are in order. At the conclusion of debate time, the Senate will proceed to vote on adoption of the resolution. That vote will occur at approximately 12 noon. Following that vote, the Senate will begin a period of morning business to allow Members to make statements and to introduce legislation.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF SENATE REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLARD). Under the previous order, the clerk will report the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 45) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the human rights situation in the People's Republic of China.

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. HUTCHINSON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators SPECTER, HAGEL, COLLINS, and THURMOND be added as cosponsors of the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. I yield to Senator WELLSTONE for a unanimous consent request.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that John Bradshaw and Sarah Nelson, a fellow and an intern, be granted the privilege of the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I am grateful to our leadership for affording us this time this morning to debate and to vote on Senate Resolution 45. Some would say this is a sense-of-the-Senate resolution so this isn't important and that this is filling time, or whatever. I suggest that there are a couple of things that have happened just recently which underscore the